



The City of College Station, Texas

Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future.

Office of the Mayor

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February 7, 2003

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

We are aware that municipal annexation authority will again come under attack during this legislative session. The City of College Station is very concerned that this is happening, because annexation authority was thoroughly debated and revised in 1999 when the legislature passed S.B. 89, a bill that has just recently gone into full effect.

We understand that some lawmakers will seek legislation that would allow residents in areas proposed for annexation to reject annexation at an election. This, of course, would end annexation in Texas and would do major harm to our city.

Annexation is the only way that we can address growth and development issues in our immediate area. It is the only way that the entire local population base can equitably share in the financing of infrastructure that serves the entire region. If, through state legislation, we create "non-annexation" zones around our cities, new development will take place in those areas, and not in the city.

The City of College Station has used its power to annex in order to promote orderly growth, to protect its citizens and to promote economic development in and near the City. Annexation of land within the extraterritorial jurisdiction helps the City maintain a high

quality of life for its residents and to continue to expand its ability to provide services affordably to its citizens.

The State of Texas is fortunate that cities receive very little of their funding through state financial assistance or state revenue-sharing. This is not always the case in other states. Cities in Texas do not ask the state to help fund the facilities and services on which the region and state rely. Cities do ask that the authority to take care of local needs and wants not be eroded by restrictions and laws passed by the state. The power to annex is one of those key authorities, and to lose it would be very detrimental to cities and the state.

We ask that the 1999 legislation be given time to work in the way it was intended, and we ask that you carefully consider the negative effects of any further erosion of municipal authority. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ron Silvia, Mayor

cc: City Council
Tom Brymer, City Manager
Harvey Cargill, City Attorney
Kelly Templin, Director of Development Services
Charles Cryan, Director of Fiscal Services